

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

The Committee has included under this section of title II the Department of Commerce agencies involved in technology research and development, scientific assessment and prediction of environmental phenomena, and the administrative and policy functions providing oversight for these activities.

### **NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY**

Appropriations, 1995	\$700,498,000
Budget estimate, 1996	1,023,050,000
House allowance	404,100,000
Committee recommendation	323,337,000

The Committee recommends a total of \$323,337,000 for the three appropriations accounts under the National Institute of Standards and Technology [NIST] for fiscal year 1996. This amount is a reduction of \$699,713,000 from the budget request, \$377,161,000 below the amounts appropriated for fiscal year 1995, and \$80,763,000 below the House allowance. A description of each account and the Committee recommendation follows:

### **SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH AND SERVICES**

Appropriations, 1995	\$247,486,000
Budget estimate, 1996	310,679,000
House allowance	263,000,000
Committee recommendation	222,737,000

**“Taken from Senate Report 104-139  
FY 1996 Senate Report...”**

The Committee has provided \$222,737,000 for the scientific and technical research and services (core programs) appropriation of the National Institute of Standards and Technology. This amount is a reduction of \$24,749,000 below fiscal year 1995 funding levels, \$87,942,000 below the budget request, and a decrease of \$40,263,000 below the House allowance.

The Committee recommendation reflects the fact that, as of August 9, 1995, the Department of Commerce projected \$4,185,000 in end-of-year carryover balances in this account.

The Committee directs that these carryover balances should be utilized to support these core NIST programs so that total budgetary resources provided for this account will exceed fiscal year 1994 levels, ensure continued funding of NIST's basic research programs, and provide continued support of the reimbursable program where NIST performs technical work for other Federal agencies, State and local governments, and the private sector.

The Committee understands that NIST is currently considering the assignment of personnel to nine overseas posts. Each of these posts currently have Commerce Department representation through the Commercial Service. The Committee does not approve the placement of additional NIST personnel overseas. Concerns about the rapid growth of overseas personnel from agencies other than the Department of State are addressed elsewhere in this report.

Quality Program- Within the amount designated for research support, the Committee has provided \$2,900,000 for the

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base NIST Quality Program, which includes the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. The Committee fully endorses the continuation of the basic Baldrige award program.

#### **INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY SERVICES**

Appropriations, 1995	\$418,373,000
Budget estimate, 1996	642,458,000
House allowance	81,100,000
Committee recommendation	76,600,000

The Committee recommends \$76,600,000 funding for the industrial technology services appropriation of the National Institute of Standards and Technology [NIST]. This amount is \$341,773,000 below the current appropriation available for fiscal year 1995, \$565,858,000 below the budget request, and \$4,500,000 below the House allowance. The Committee recommendation reflects the fact that, as of August 9, 1995, the Department of Commerce projected \$83,838,000 in carryover balances in the NIST 'Industrial technology services' account.

Advanced Technology Program- The Committee has provided funds for the continuation grants in the Advanced Technology Program [ATP]. According to information provided to the Committee by NIST, no new grants had been awarded this fiscal year as June 30, 1995. Despite a prohibition contained in the House-passed version of House bill 2076 that no future awards be made, the Committee notes that on July 14, 1995, ATP announced the 24 new projects receiving first-time Federal funding of approximately \$60,500,000. The Committee notes that despite uncertainty over the future of this program, additional awards are

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planned before the end of the fiscal year. In so doing, NIST has jeopardized funding for the continuation of ATP grants awarded in fiscal year 1994 and prior years. Of the funding provided in this act and \$83,838,000 in projected end-of-year carryover balances in the 'Industrial technology services' account, the Committee directs that \$108,600,000 be used to finance continuation grants of fiscal year 1994 and prior year ATP projects.

Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program- Of the funds provided in this act and \$83,838,000 in projected end-of-year carryover balances in the 'Industrial technology services' account, the Committee directs that \$51,300,000 be used to allow all existing Manufacturing Extension Partnership [MEP] Program and Technology Reinvestment Program [TRP] centers eligible to receive funding in fiscal year 1996 to remain open for one additional year while the future of this program is debated. Funding for the continued operation of those eligible centers will not include: extension of the unauthorized State Technology Extension Partnership [STEP] Program, or any funding for Small Business Administration small business development centers through NIST. In addition, none of these funds may be used to open a new center in fiscal year 1996 or provide for a new competition for additional centers.

#### **CONSTRUCTION OF RESEARCH FACILITIES**

Appropriations, 1995	\$34,639,000
Budget estimate, 1996	69,913,000
House allowance	60,000,000
Committee recommendation	24,000,000

**“Taken from Senate Report 104-139  
FY 1996 Senate Report...”**

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$24,000,000 for construction of NIST facilities. This amount is a decrease of \$10,639,000 below fiscal year 1995 funding levels, \$45,913,000 below the budget request, and \$36,000,000 below the House allowance. The Committee recommendation provides funding for maintenance and necessary fire and safety upgrades for existing NIST facilities. No funds are provided for new construction for this unauthorized program in fiscal year 1996. The Committee expects NIST to reassess its building requirements in light of reduced program and staffing levels and overall budget constraints.